

## U of A Press double hitter

*Shredding the Public Interest* is lauded as the book that "rose above the others."

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## Who killed Canadian history?

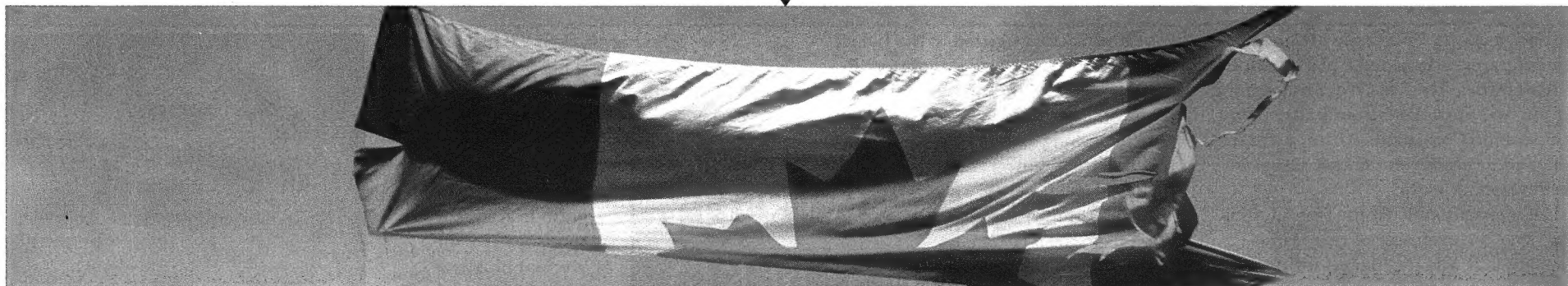
How did we forget the name of the first Canadian prime minister and begin to think Norman Rockwell was one of ours?

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## The imprint of art on life

Three U of A printmakers discuss the processes behind their artistic visions.

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UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

# folio

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## Lois Hole elected 16th chancellor

*Increased funding at the top of her agenda*

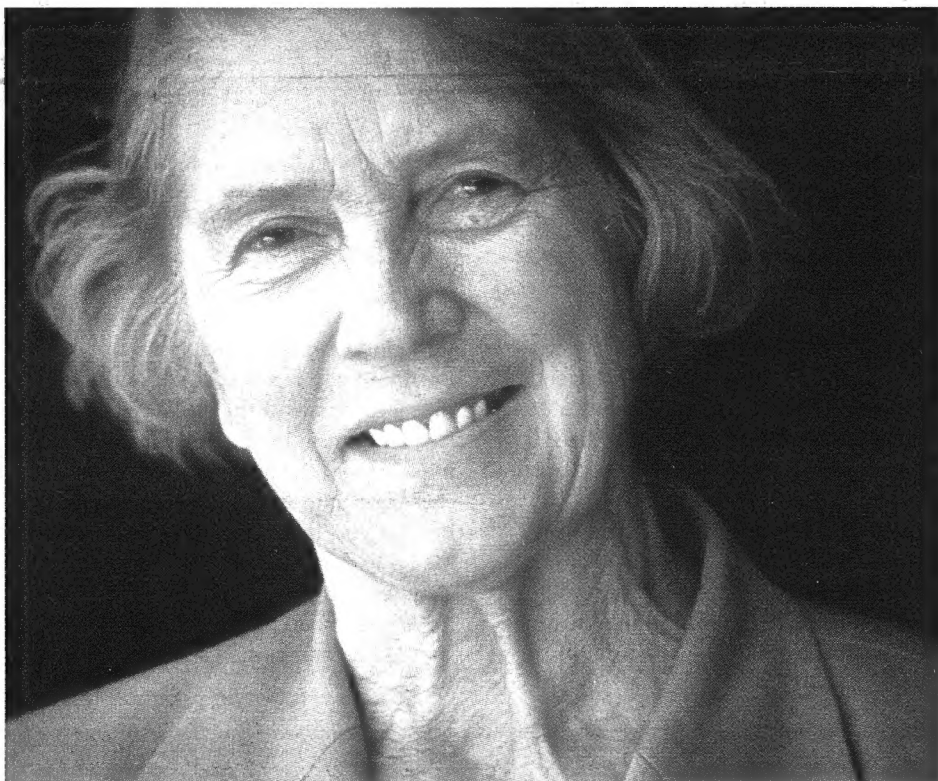
By Michael Robb

Just three days after being elected the University of Alberta's 16th chancellor, Lois Hole was on campus at the University Bookstore, signing copies of her many books, meeting staff, chatting excitedly about her upcoming role and dispensing gardening advice—it's not too early to plant! She counts off her fingers, listing the Swiss chard, carrots and onions she already has in.

This mix of gardening and business is a familiar one for Hole. "I can be sitting with lawyers, doctors, and business-people and the conversation always turns to gardening," she says. You'll find that even people who aren't gardeners still want to be able to grow something."

Hole has spent considerable time in boardrooms talking business too. She's served as a St. Albert School District trustee since 1981 and prior to that was trustee and chair of the Sturgeon School Division for 11 years. She is a director of the Farm Credit Corporation and a board member of the Canadian Heritage Garden Foundation, the Children and Mental Health Association and the Quality of Life Commission.

Hole credits her mother-in-law, Grandma Hole, with inspiring her commitment to university education. "I always remember her saying, 'When my children were going to university, the girls didn't ever have to do dishes or tidy up. They should study. I can do the dishes, but I can't become educated for them.' Grandma Hole didn't have the opportunity herself, but she saw to it that all nine of her children did."



The University of Alberta's 16th Chancellor, Lois Hole.

Constant promotions by one of her first employers, Woodwards, kept Hole herself from university. "It was unusual for a woman to get involved in business at the time," says Hole, who quickly assumed responsibility for the store's staff training and eventually become the company's only female assistant manager. She was making good money. "I always thought I would work for awhile and then go back to school."

But it never happened.

Instead, Hole became one of Edmonton's best-known business people. She, along with her husband Ted and sons Bill and Mike, own Hole's Greenhouses and Gardens Ltd. of St. Albert. She's also the author of six gardening books—all Canadian best-sellers—and is a regular contributor to the *Globe and Mail* and the *Edmonton Sun*. She appears regularly on the Grapevine segment of CBC television's *Canadian Gardener*. Her work has earned her an honorary doctorate from

Athabasca University and a distinguished citizen honorary diploma from Grant MacEwan Community College.

Now, as chancellor of the province's largest university, Hole—who described her election as a "marvellous opportunity"—will turn her attention to the business of post-secondary education.

"Universities cannot exist without enough financial support," she says. "The government realizes and understands that it has to help the university. I'm hoping we'll see some increases in funding."

Hole says she is optimistic people will step forward to help fund the university. "One of the things I'd like to see is a specific campaign for scholarships and bursaries for students. I do feel that it is a struggle for a lot of people to be able to stay in university and complete university with the high cost of tuition."

Hole succeeds Lou Hyndman, whose four-year, non-renewable term as chancellor ends June 10. Hyndman says he will remain active with his alma mater. His immediate plans are to return to the practice of law. Hyndman's parting words of advice for Hole are concise: Be yourself and you'll do a wonderful job.

As chancellor, Hole will be titular head of the university, chair all senate meetings, serve as a member of the Board of Governors, represent the university at ceremonial occasions and preside over convocation to confer all degrees. The chancellor is a volunteer and acts as a liaison between the university and the community. ■



**The Literary History of Alberta**  
George Melnyk  
Volume One:  
From Writing-on-Stone  
to World War Two  
...Melnik provides a refreshingly inclusive  
and comprehensive account of Alberta's  
largely overlooked literary canon.  
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# Donor remembers the roots of his own internationalization

Travel award from Ross and Eleanor Wein to help students travel to far-flung areas of the globe

By Michael Robb

In 1964, a young University of Guelph undergraduate boarded a plane bound for East Africa. Dr. Ross Wein was among a group of North Americans participating in Operation Crossroads Africa, a program designed to expose students to issues in the developing world.

"It internationalized my way of thinking," says the professor of renewable resources. "It was the biggest influence on my professional life. I learned about the value of international travel, but more importantly, about the value of international study."

Now Wein and his wife, Dr. Eleanor Wein, a research associate with the Canadian Circumpolar Institute, are making it possible for students to have that same kind of formative experience. They've established an endowment that will fund an annual \$2,000 Wein Family Travel Award.

"We learned so much through our travel, we wanted to help others travel and learn," says Eleanor, whose own two university-aged children have reaped the benefits of extensive travel.

Third-year students interested in environmental conservation will be eligible for the award. The award will help students cover their travel expenses, so they can conduct independent studies linked to a national park and a university in a country other than Canada or the United States. Preference will be given to rural students who plan to conduct research in a northern circumpolar country. As the endowment grows, additional \$2,000 awards will be given.

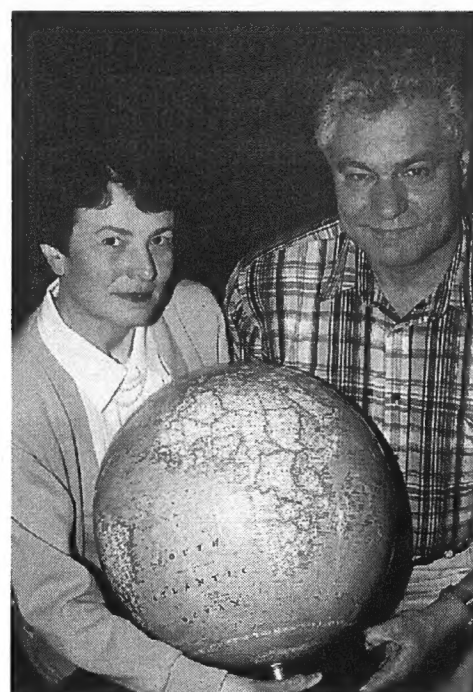
Other factors figured in the Weins' donation. Over a four-year period, Ross and Eleanor lost their parents. They were thankful their parents lived long and fulfilled lives, but it caused them to shift their thinking—from the past to the future. The Weins' parents were always interested in young people, and the Weins are keeping that tradition alive by opening their home to innumerable international students over the years.

Both agree with the U of A goal of internationalizing the student experience for increasing numbers of undergraduates. (Ideally, says President Rod Fraser, every undergraduate should have a significant international experience before he or she graduates.) "We find that encouraging," says Eleanor.

## UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA CAMPAIGN

Ross, who has worked extensively in national parks during his professional career, returned earlier this year to the

continent that changed his life, to take part in a teaching safari. The program in Kenya was sponsored by the Student in Africa program, a consortium of universities dedicated to providing a semester of field study in Africa. He was joined by other professors and students—including some from the U of A—to experience the sights, sounds and smells of Africa. "We taught courses, gave lectures, did field work. We only had to look outside for textbook examples. It was complete immersion...the best type of learning there is," says Ross, and an experience more and more students just have to have. ■



Drs. Ross and Eleanor Wein: committed to the support of global education.

## Stonger, faster, higher—can a drug do the trick?

U of A researchers study the effects of Creatine Monohydrate

By Michael Robb

The world's fastest man, Donovan Bailey, uses it. His rival Michael Johnson says he does too. Closer to home, members of the U of A Golden Bears football team and the rowing team use it.

It's not a steroid, but a perfectly legal substance: creatine monohydrate, a protein supplement sold in health food stores commonly used by athletes to increase the stores of creatine phosphate in their muscles. Creatine in muscle is broken down in the early stages of exercise, releasing its energy to let the muscle rebuild supplies of enosine triphosphate, the rocket fuel sprinters and weight lifters rely on. Athletes say it enhances that initial five to eight second burst of energy and speeds up muscle recovery. They use the substance for much the same reason Ben Johnson used anabolic steroids: to become stronger and faster.

But does it really work? A team of University of Alberta researchers is conducting research on weight lifters and rowers to answer that question with some hard scientific data. So far, the data from a

study conducted with weight lifters doesn't show a significant enough statistical difference in strength between those given creatine and those given placebos to support athletes' claims the substance works wonders. Athletes who received the creatine showed slightly better strength and muscle recovery than those who received placebos.

The researchers used three groups: one group received creatine for five days and continued taking smaller quantities over four weeks; another group received creatine for five days and a placebo for four weeks; and another group received only placebos. Co-investigators Dr. Robert Burnham and Ian MacLean conducted muscle biopsies at the end of weeks four, five and nine—in effect, slicing tiny bits of muscle from the participants' thigh muscles. Graduate students Lorraine Sim and Rob Calvert then went to work, examining the body composition changes and changes in the cell sites.

One football player who used creatine claimed he had gained seven or eight

pounds in one week. "There's definitely an increase in body mass, but we don't know a lot yet about whether it's actually muscle mass or just water," says co-investigator Dr. Dan Syrotuik (Physical Education and Recreation). Co-investigator, Dr. Gordon Bell, who is also analyzing research data on creatine use among a group of rowers, may shed more light on that question.

Creatine is produced naturally from two amino acids in the liver, kidney and pancreas. A normal diet includes about one gram of creatine daily. It's found in meat and fish, but cooking destroys a significant portion of the creatine. An athlete would have to eat about 10 pounds of raw steak to ingest 20 grams of creatine. It's typically sold over the counter as a powder that can be easily dissolved in water.

The group's work is supported by the Sport Science Association of Alberta and the Nutrasense Company, a manufacturer of the supplement. Syrotuik will be delivering the study findings in June to the National Strength and Conditioning Association annual conference. ■

## folio

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...it makes sense





# Who killed Canadian history?

By Geoff McMaster

How did our collective memory get this impaired? How could it come to pass that 61 per cent of young Canadians don't know Sir John A. Macdonald from Sir Laurence Olivier? Or that 55 per cent don't know the date of Confederation, 92 per cent can't tell you the year of the first Quebec referendum, and only 26 per cent can name a war in which the United States invaded Canada?

These Angus Reid survey results make it painfully clear we are forgetting our past. History doesn't carry the weight it used to in schools, and in the opinion of some, we are paying dearly for this neglect.

According to the prominent Canadian historian, J.L. Granatstein, the state of historical knowledge, or lack thereof, has reached a state of full-blown crisis in this country. It's no wonder, he argues in his new book, *Who Killed Canadian History?*, that national unity has proven so elusive.

"I agree entirely," says Dr. Andrew Gow a University of Alberta history professor currently designing an optional history curriculum for Alberta junior and senior high schools. "We suffer from all kinds of other things, not just a lack of national identity. We don't understand the weight of the past on our culture and our politics. We can't make sense of the Quebec situation."

"In my experience, people, especially out here (in the west), have almost no real knowledge about the conditions under which the country was created, and what went into making the current constitution and the current constitutional impasse as a result."

Gow says North Americans are particularly susceptible to forgetting be-

cause we live in a pervasively suburban world. "What's real for most people are the malls, the suburbs, the highways, which have no past, and are constantly being updated."

"You can't do this in Europe. You cannot escape from your past physically—it's there in front

That's certainly not the case at the U of A according to Dr. Rod MacLeod, professor, history and classics. At least in the honors program, students must take courses in Canadian history to graduate. Moreover, he says, the infighting to which Granatstein refers does not exist in the U of A's history department.

"That may reflect his own experience," says

across the country and tested with national standards.

But not all historians are convinced we need to settle on one story to promote national identity.

"(Granatstein) and I agree on the general principle and disagree violently on the details, I think," says Gow. "Essentially because this single narrative of Canadian history is laughable. It was developed by central-Canadian, basically Ontario, nationalists."

"Taking that narrative apart, replacing certain pieces of it with, say, the treatment of Japanese Canadians in the Second World War, Ukrainians in the First World War, treatment of native Canadians everywhere at all times, to me has not been the cause of the loss of history in our schools."

"I agree with Granatstein that we need to learn about the political and constitutional history of the country. But we can't learn about it without learning about the founding cultures."

Canadian Studies professor Ian MacLaren says the teaching of history has perhaps been skewed in favor of regional interests in recent years. On the other hand, restoring a "master" narrative would only exclude those who don't have the power to contest it, he says.

He adds that some historians of Granatstein's generation look back nostalgically to a past unity that in fact never existed in Canada, which is why dominion made more sense in the beginning than any idea of nation. Granatstein's desire for national unity, says MacLaren, "even if he doesn't happen to mention it in his book, nevertheless has its roots in a 19th century concept of one ethnicity, one nation."

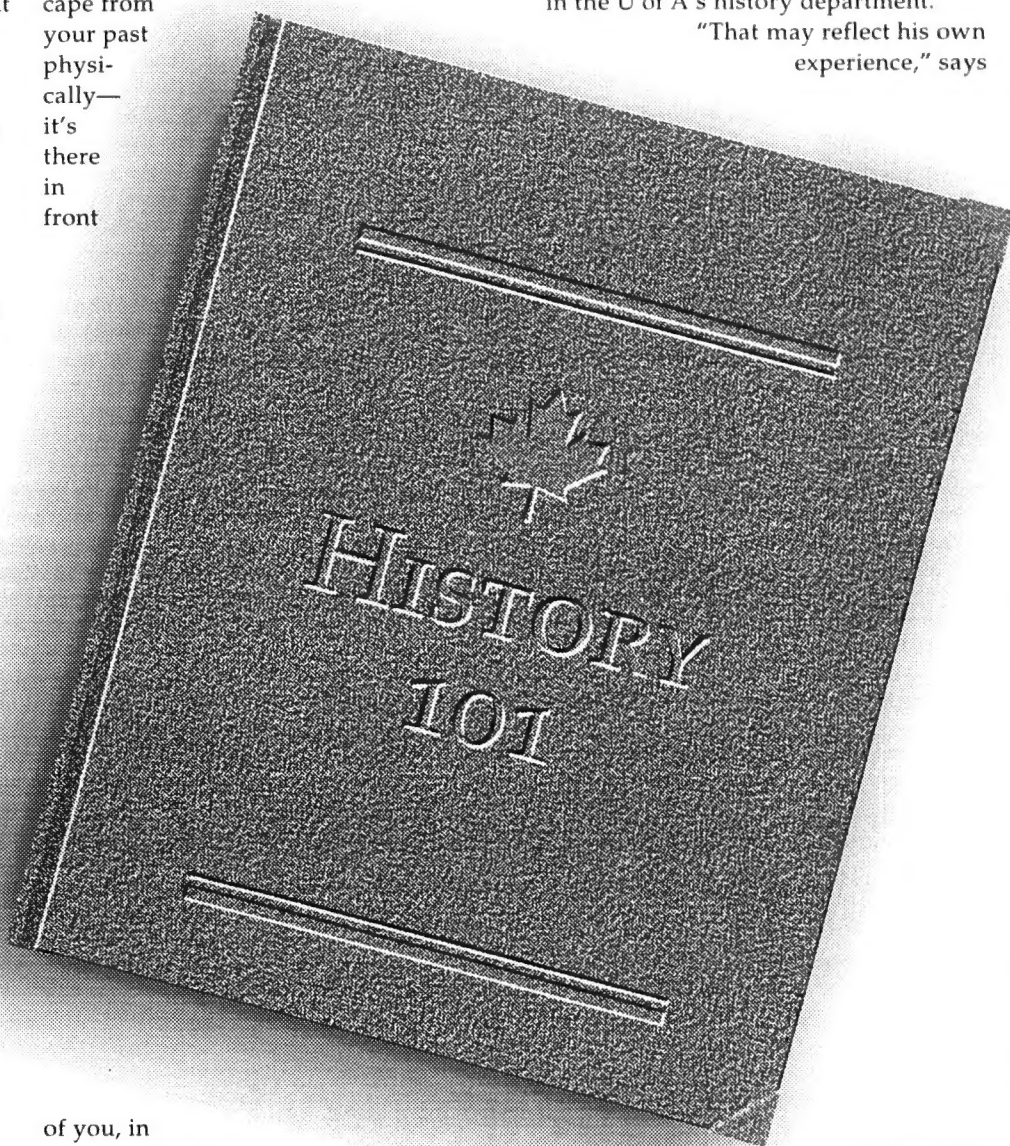
"I'm not opposed to a redressing of the balance, but I think we need to do it with more imagination than his somewhat shrill demand. I think probably we suffer to some extent by not having more in common. I agree about that. The regionalisms are really breeding grounds for ignorance about Canada as a whole. But this is a product of living next to the U.S. It's hard for us to gain enough distance from the U.S. to realize that not every country has to establish its myth of identity the way Americans do."

In his own courses, MacLaren says he encourages students to construct their own narratives of Canadian history after critically engaging in what he calls "centripetal and centrifugal urges," or the various forces making a claim to Canadian history.

"I do think that if you set up Canada as a really interesting experiment in nation making and not a failure, then you can teach centripetal and centrifugal urges as a way of understanding how Canada has come to be what it is as a nation, a very different kind of nation from an American one."

However we approach our current state of national amnesia, the consensus among historians seems clear enough—something needs to be done or we will all suffer. And while Granatstein's conservatism may overlook a few shades of grey, says Swyripa, at least he's stirring debate.

"If he intends the book as a polemic to get people thinking, it will serve a purpose," she says. "I'm sure there will be rebuttals." ■



MacLeod. "The history department at York

University is notorious for being divided in this fashion." He also questions Granatstein's assumption that "political history is somehow related to creating a sense of national identity. It doesn't seem to me obvious why social history couldn't do the same thing."

Dr. Frances Swyripa agrees. She says deconstructing the traditional narrative of history can only be a healthy development.

"Any department is going to have people who approach a discipline in different ways, and in some ways that's a strength. I certainly don't see any tensions over it. There's certainly discussions, but that's part of the whole intellectual process."

Even Granatstein concedes (somewhat begrudgingly) that revisionist perspectives have served a purpose, redressing a traditional elitist bias. That aside, however, he argues we are now in desperate need of a single story

"grounded solidly in chronology" to tell ourselves and our children, one incorporating both political and social history. Ideally, this hybrid narrative would be taught in compulsory history courses

of you, in every building, in every street corner, in every street sign. In Asia the same is true for most places—in India the same is true for most places."

Historians mostly agree ignorance of our country's past is costly and dangerous. Determining who's responsible for it, however, and deciding what to do about it, are other matters.

For his part, Granatstein is anything but shy of pointing fingers. He says "multicultural mania" is the primary culprit in the "unthinking conspiracy to eliminate Canada's past," since it displaces a single, chronological narrative of national history with the specialized interests of regions, minorities, women and the working class.

In schools, he argues, teachers are afraid to teach any one version of history for fear of offending someone, so they tend to back off from the subject entirely. And in the academy, he says, the battle between political and social historians has been divisive and detrimental, with political history ending up more or less relegated to the scrap heap. He claims it's possible for a history student to graduate from a Canadian university with an honors degree, MA and doctorate "without ever coming into contact with the history of our own nation."

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An Angus Reid survey last year of French and English-speaking Canadians between the ages of 18 and 24 turned up the following results:

- Thirty-three per cent knew Remembrance Day commemorates the end of the First World War
- Thirty-five per cent knew the significance of D-Day
- Fourteen per cent knew why Lester Pearson won the Nobel Peace Prize
- Five per cent knew that 1837 was the date of the Rebellions of Upper and Lower Canada
- Ten per cent were able to identify the Quiet Revolution
- Thirty-four per cent knew the Acadians had been deported in the 18th century

And on cultural matters:

- Thirty per cent thought Norman Rockwell was Canadian
- Twenty per cent thought Allan Ginsberg was Canadian
- Seventeen per cent claimed Tennessee Williams and Andy Warhol as our own
- Only 11 per cent knew Sir Frederick Banting had won the Nobel Prize in medicine for discovering insulin
- Sixteen per cent were able to identify Marc Garneau as the first Canadian in space

» quick » facts



# U of A Press takes the prize(s)

By Lee Elliott

It was a double hitter for U of A Press at the Alberta Book Awards, April 25, when it received the Trade Title of the Year Award and the Scholarly Title of the Year Award.

U of A Press Director Glenn Rollans says awards don't mean much—unless you win one. And in this case, there are no two he'd rather have. "In fact, winning the two that we did is a great statement of the mandate of the press," he says.

*Shredding the Public Interest: Ralph Klein and 25 Years of One-Party Govern-*

*ment* by Kevin Taft won the trade title award. The book, which Rollans initially turned down, spent 14 weeks on the *Financial Post* best-seller list last spring. *The Globe and Mail* assigned Kenneth Whyte, editor of *Saturday Night*, to write the review and asked former Alberta treasurer Jim Dinning to respond.

*The Economist of London* carried a review, author Kevin Taft spent six solid weeks in media interviews and the premier called him a communist (he later clarified and called the U of A Press com-

munist). And—at only \$8.95 a copy—nearly 26,000 were sold. "For an average scholarly book, we sell 1,000 to 1,500," says Rollans.

Rollans says when Taft first approached him, he turned him down primarily because he saw it as risky for the author. Rollans introduced Taft to other publishers instead, but each turned him down as well. Finally, Taft returned to ask Rollans for advice on self publishing. "My advice on self publishing is always, don't," says Rollans.

Afraid a really good book would never be read, Rollans joined forces with the U of A Parkland Institute which came in as co-publisher, and the book

became "the mouse that roared." The partnership was perfect, says Rollans, and will be the first of many. Parkland is clear on having a political goal, he says. "They were able to be unrestrained as a champion for a political book."

The press was then free to become a champion for a good book. "The sources are impeccable, the research sound and it has a remarkable lack of qualification," says Rollans.

## BEST SCHOLARLY BOOK

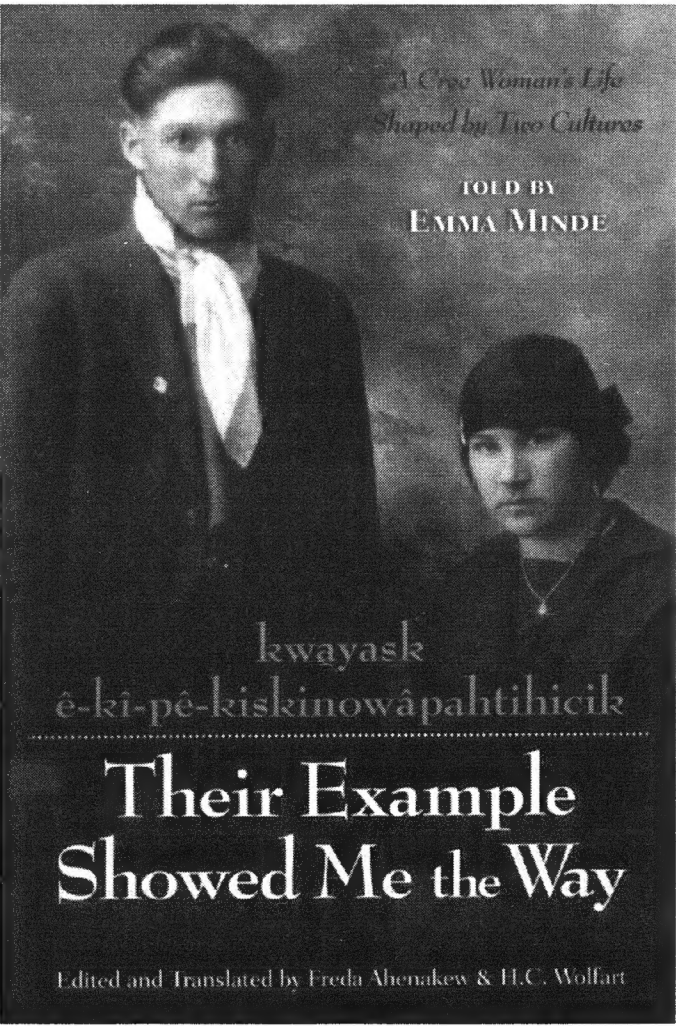
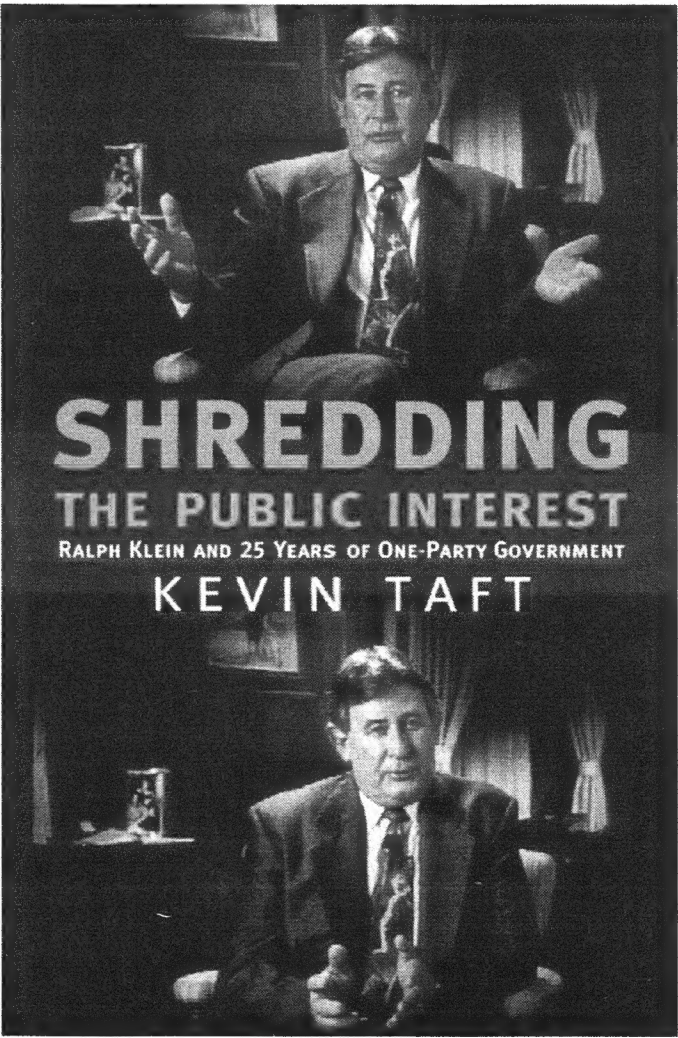
*Kwayask ê-kî-pê-kiskowâpahtihicik Their Example Showed Me the Way: A Cree Woman's Life Shaped by Two Cultures*, by Emma Minde won scholarly title of the year. Judges said, "The text is truly outstanding in all areas of significance for this award."

The odds were for the U of A Press on this prize, as three of the four short-listed titles were U of A Press books. The others were *Challenging Territory: The Writing of Margaret Laurence*, edited by Christian Riegel, and *Germany: Phoenix in Trouble?*, edited by Matthias Zimmer.

Judges said: "[T]he editorial standards and design of these books are comparable to the best

university presses. To accomplish this quality is really a miracle, considering the resources that these publishers have to work with."

The Book Publishers Association of Alberta and the Writers Guild of Alberta jointly sponsor the Alberta Book Awards. A total of 225 books and plays, all written and published in 1997, were submitted to the competition and awards in 15 categories were presented April 25 at a banquet in Calgary. ■



# George Melynk: Exploring the literary texture of a province

**From Writing-on-Stone to World War Two: The Literary History of Alberta, Volume One, published by The University of Alberta Press**

By Michael Robb

Does Alberta have its own distinctive literary canon? George Melynk says, yes, and in his recent book published by the University of Alberta Press, the Calgary writer argues there is an "Alberta literature" and we ought to know it.

"It's a powerful question," says Melynk. "I wanted to begin the debate with the publication of this book, *From Writing-on-Stone to World War Two: The Literary History of Alberta*. I'm not trying to create a history for its own sake, but to stimulate writers to think about their own past and use it as a starting point for their own creativity."

Melynk's own starting points are fresh. He includes a chapter on the aboriginal tradition, describing it as something special, neither literature nor art, but an amalgam. There are chapters on non-English literatures and literary outsiders. He doesn't rely on the traditional concepts applied to Alberta writing such as "English," "Prairie," and "Canadian." Although they are all valid in their ways, it is time to examine the canon as a distinctive, Alberta identity, he says.

By 1945, there was a mountain of Alberta literature, a ranching literature, an agrarian literature, a northern forest literature and an urban literature. Prior to the Second World War, individual writers were acknowledged for their work, but not

as part of an Alberta literary tradition. They were identified with literary genres or styles, ideologies, or cultures. Some were identified as "Prairie writers." However, there was never any discussion of how that placing might have created a tradition constituting an Alberta literature, he says.

He first began thinking about those issues when he was the executive director of the Alberta Foundation for the Literary Arts. "I didn't really know much about it (the province's literary history) until I began to do some digging and began to realize what a rich literary history we have."

Melynk explores the literature of the exploration period, 1754-1869, territorial and provincial literature, 1870-1929, and the Depression and war years, 1930-1945. He discusses the early literary institutions and the people who played key roles, such as U of A English professor F.M. (John) Salter who supported an emerging generation of Alberta writers from the '20s to the '60s.

Albertans have thought more of other places, other people, other literatures for too long, he says. "They have been en-

thralled by narratives produced by others, have felt that indigenous writing is little more than rough-hewn literary pioneering, have believed that greatness lies elsewhere."

Melynk says his most recent work challenges those assumptions and prejudices. Volume two, which will cover the 1949-1996 era, will do so as well.

While the first volume is primarily chronological and deals mostly with non-fiction, the second will deal more with fiction. Each chapter will be based on a genre—poetry, fiction, playwriting and children's literature, for example. And there will be more to examine. There are twice as many writers in the last 50 years than during the previous 150 years. The second

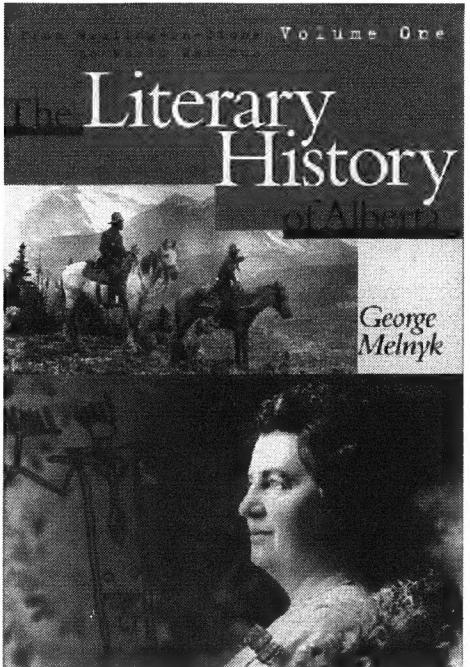
volume will be different in another way—most of the writers discusses are still alive.

"It's much different to write about today's writers and about what their literary legacy may be while they're still producing it."

Melynk has a long connection to the literary culture of the province. His books include *Riel to Reform: A History of Protest in Western Canada*, *The Urban Prairie*, and

"It's much different to write about today's writers and about what their literary legacy may be while they're still producing it."

—George Melynk



*The Literary History of Alberta: a text for readers interested in the cultural history of western Canada.*

*Beyond Alienation: Political Essays on the West*. In the 1970s, he founded *NeWest Review* and *NeWest Press*. The University of Alberta Press will also publish the second volume of the literary history of Alberta. It's expected next year. ■



## Liaison with industry critical route to spreading knowledge

By Dr. Jim Murray, Director, Industry Liaison Office

Is "industry liaison" within a university context a contradiction of terms? Is there really any legitimacy to the dissemination of research results other than through the traditional means—through publication in peer-reviewed journals, in monographs or collaborative works, and in textbooks, and, of course, by teaching? As many academics know, there is another means of spreading new knowledge, and that is through the transfer of new discoveries to industry for commercialization. At the University of Alberta, the commercialization of technologies, cultivars, processes, and software is an increasingly frequent means of sharing new knowledge with the world. Facilitating that commercialization is a primary function of the University's Industry Liaison Office.

To many faculty and staff, the Industry Liaison Office (ILO) is something of a mystery and, like a pair of pliers or a spare tire for the car, it's useful only when needed and not given much thought otherwise. To me, that's basically a good thing, because we in the ILO very much want to be available when we're needed. I just don't think that enough people know that we're here and others view us suspiciously because of our name. As a result, they don't take advantage of the resources that we offer.

Just when do you need us, though? We do much more than transfer the results of University of Alberta research for commercial purposes. While we do work closely

with researchers in disciplines traditionally more closely associated with "technology transfer" than others—such as medicine, science, agriculture and engineering—we are beginning to work more frequently with people in areas which once would have considered the phrase "technology transfer" to be utterly foreign. We have active partnerships, for example, with researchers in the Faculties of Arts, Law, and Business, and we are pursuing opportunities in virtually every other faculty.

I'm sure there are many members of the university community who simply can't understand the need for an office such as ours. Perhaps in the traditional sense of the word, that's true. Many academics shrug their shoulders and say "I will never have any liaison with industry in my line of work." But step back and think for a moment. Whether we want it or not, this university, like other major research-intensive universities across North America and world-wide, is being drawn increasingly into more and more relationships with industry and business. For some reason, many of us think that this is wrong. We worry that interaction with industry con-

flicts with the essential and basic academic freedom that underlies the very roots of university research.

Again, there is an element of truth in that worry—more than a few past examples suggest that academic freedom and industry profits are mutually exclusive concepts. But things are changing. Offices such as ours exist to harmonize the interests and objectives of both academia and industry (and to make sure that our researchers' interests are primary), and offices such as ours are relatively recent phenomena. Is more and more applied university research being done on behalf of industry? Yes. But did you also know that more and more basic, unfettered, curiosity-driven research is

being funded by industry than ever before?

Industry has come to realize that collaboration with a research-intensive university is akin to tapping a vast reservoir of exceptional, specialized talent and human resources. Industry also has realized that it can achieve many of its own goals by partnering with both universities and the federal granting councils in sponsoring basic research. Industry also knows that the vast majority of new inventions, know-

how and other discoveries arise from basic, not applied, research. Finally, and perhaps most important of all, industry is becoming aware that one-sided and heavy-handed relationships with universities are short-sighted and ultimately unproductive, and that long-term partnerships can result in substantial benefit to all of those involved: the business, the researcher and the university.

The Industry Liaison Office exists to help our researchers obtain the funding they need to do their research, and to assist them with the dissemination of their research results through publication or commercialization. The key word is "liaison." We act as an interface, a catalyst, and as a promoter of the vast human resources of the University of Alberta. We are the university's advocates in an increasingly global economy, an economy that is affecting universities as much as it is a pharmaceutical giant, a telecommunications conglomerate or an energy company.

We are doing our best to make the University of Alberta a competitive leader in the business of knowledge. That sounds very non-traditional, but it's a reality. The University of Alberta is one of Canada's best universities, and a number of strategies are in place designed to make it even better. The Industry Liaison Office looks forward to playing its part in making this happen. ■

... [D]id you also know  
that more and more  
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curiosity-driven research  
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before?



### Folio Flashback

#### River Lot 5

**The way we were:** This photo, taken around 1910, shows some of the early groundbreaking that brought us to where we are today. The province of Alberta purchased this land—River Lot 5—for the future site of the University of Alberta and over the course of 90 years it's been transformed to the campus we know today.





# 1998 Rutherford Award Winners for

## Open door policy invites students as people, not numbers

By Lucianna Ciccocioppo

He's known for answering a question with a question, especially if students are dragging their heels on an assignment. It's a way of finding out how much work they've done so far before he starts helping out.

"I make them work for it," says Sandy Rennie, associate professor of physical therapy. "I give resources, not answers."

It's something students remember when they contact him for advice and ideas once they're out in the working world. E-mails and phone calls from all over are all right with Rennie. "I feel really good about being used as a resource. It's humbling and gratifying...To me, that's a legacy left behind."

Rennie knew he wanted to teach when he was in high school because of the positive impact of one Mr. Nixon, a physics teacher at Ross Sheppard Composite High School. That's why Rennie started in education during his first year of university. He wanted to teach people with disabilities. But an encounter with classmates in physical therapy changed his direction and he never looked back. Even after grad work and a stint in the work force, Rennie wanted to teach. And he wanted to be good at it.

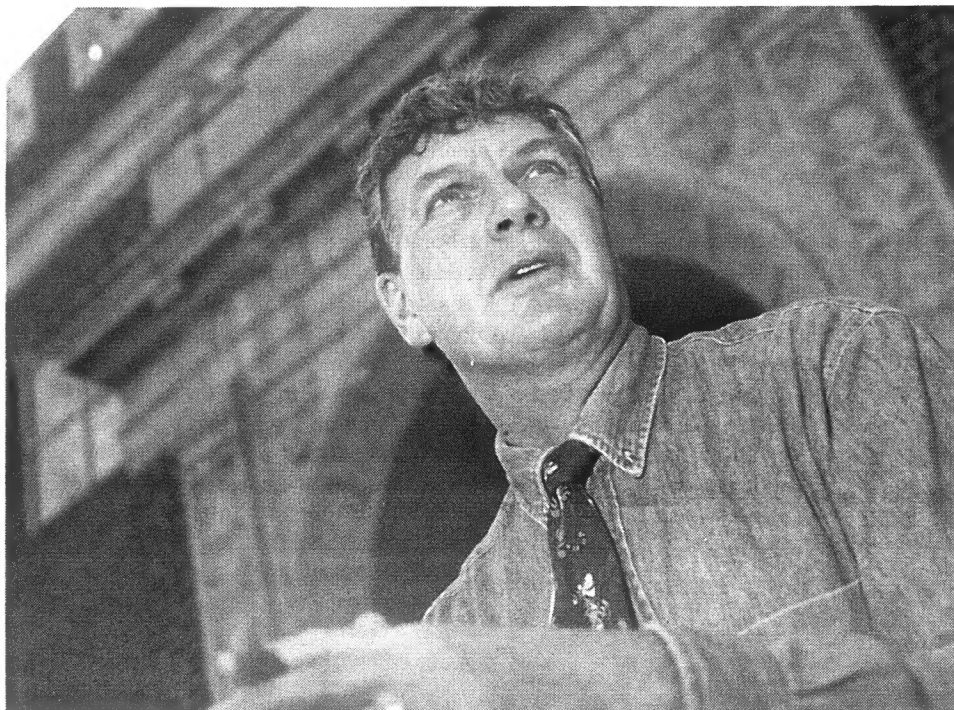
"I think it's incumbent to be the best teacher you can be, but not everyone takes the time to do this," says Rennie. Sometimes it means learning from the students. Rennie says he takes feedback on courses, exams, assignments and evaluations very seriously. But he also takes the time to get to know the person behind the student number. He says having children around the same age as many of his students keeps him "human and normal as much as possible." And he's touched to see people take advantage of his open door policy.

"I feel good about students willing to come talk to me about issues...other than school talk," says Rennie. "It makes you feel like you're more than a teacher." It's rewarding to see students find you trustful and compassionate, says the physical therapist, traits that certainly come into play when he's working with athletes at Commonwealth and Olympic Games.

Faced with the uncomfortable task at times of telling athletes they shouldn't play because of injuries, Rennie likens it to giving a failing grade to a student. "You really have to know what you're talking about...They live with the consequences and so do we." That's why he tries to get inside students' heads if they're doing

poorly, to find out what's really going on in their lives.

In addition to the challenge of completing his PhD while teaching, Rennie says his other great challenge is assuaging student fears that they aren't getting value for their buck. Rennie says he remembers worrying about rising costs and diminishing returns when he was in university. And he knows it's a concern for physical therapy students who are in school and practicums until July. Taking away their summer jobs hits them in their pockets, says Rennie. But hearing students say they're ready to hit the real world of clinical practice afterward means the U of A is doing a good job of preparing them, he says.



Sandy Rennie

## Students say, "Macki rules"

By Geoff McMaster

If you didn't know better, you might say Dr. Jack Macki had it made before he even graduated from the California Institute of California with a PhD in mathematics.

As a graduate student, he worked at the Aerospace Corporation, a company overseeing research for the U.S. Air Force. Once armed with his degree, he went on to land a job with the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory in 1964. He brought home fat paycheques, but the money just wasn't enough. One day he decided what he really wanted to do was teach.

"I refer to it as a being cursed with a love of teaching, because it costs you so much. But it's worth it in terms of personal rewards," he says.

Macki joined the University of Alberta's mathematics department in 1966, winning a standing ovation from his first class, a troubled section he took over in mid-term from a professor who had personal difficulties. He turned an abysmal rate of failure around and got most of the students through the course. The praise and accolades for Macki's teaching haven't stopped pouring in since.

When asked what makes his approach unique, he replies, "I'm one of those guys

who just does it—I don't think about it." Nothing, however, could be further from the truth. Described by his chair as a



Dr. Jack Macki

"true intellectual," Macki says he takes great pains to place math into "a cultural and historical context. It seems to make it come alive a lot more."

Macki also works hard at keeping course material useful and relevant. And so besides his considerable achievements as an instructor, he has taken a lead role recently in redesigning the mathematics curriculum for engineers. He also pioneered an extremely popular "cooperative method" used in mathematics laboratories.

Judging from student response, however, Macki's talent in the classroom seems to derive mainly from his enthusiasm. Comments from student course evaluations say it all:

"His love of the subject was infectious."

"He lived mathematics, not just taught it."

"Macki is a kick-ass instructor and deserves a raise."

"Dr. Macki is a saint to all first-year students."

"Dr. Macki is the best teacher I have had in 15 years."

"Macki rules."

## Simple respect and a theatrical flair win over med students

By Geoff McMaster

Dr. Martin Palmer became a teacher because he had a bone to pick. He was so disappointed with his own experience as a medical student, he says, that he was determined to set things right for the next generation. According to his students, he does that by giving them the same respect he gives his colleagues.

"I hate the idea of hierarchies getting in the way, which has been a part of institutional medical training in the past," says Palmer.

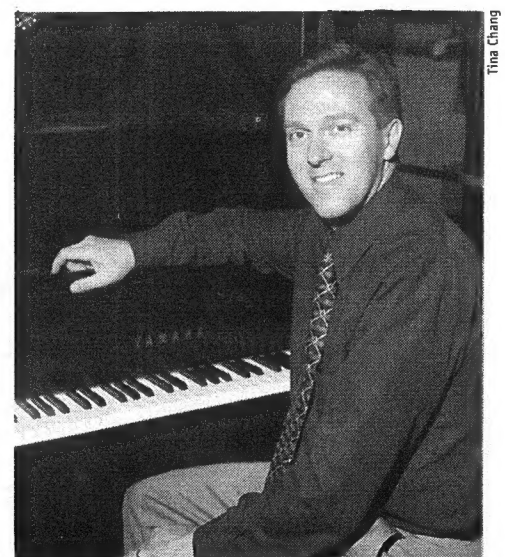
Palmer received his medical degree in Auckland, New Zealand, in the early '80s and joined the Cross Cancer Institute as a senior specialist in oncology in 1988. Apart from gaining a reputation as an exceptional mentor, he received the highest rating ever given in the medical faculty by undergraduate students for his 1996-97 oncology course.

One secret to Palmer's success as a teacher is his flair for the theatrical. His classes are productions, complete with cast (including patients wherever possible), props and a plot. He approaches teaching, as he says in his personal teaching philosophy, with "elements of comedy, surprise and good timing, all carefully rehearsed while appearing to be spontaneous." No small achievement when much of the course material is so dry it threatens to blow off the page.

"Many native cultures know (the importance of story) way better than we do," he says. "The whole idea is to grab the students' attention and, secondly, to demonstrate that what you're talking about has relevancy. A dry, didactic regurgitation of something in a text book just doesn't cut it."

Palmer insists his students see what they're learning with fresh eyes, and so he borrows one of his techniques from, of all places, literary theory. Applying the Russian Formalist concept of "defamiliarization," whereby the reader is urged to notice something familiar as if for the first time, he attempts to construct for his students a more relevant and vital "three-dimensional picture."

But the toughest challenge Palmer faces as an instructor, he says emphatically without hesitation, is not confronted in the classroom at all, but rather in the political arena, "to convince the government that these things need to be funded appropriately."



Dr. Martin Palmer



# Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching

## Top 10 hits for learning about business

By Lucianna Ciccocioppo

He enjoyed being student body president during the early years of university, and says being in front of hundreds of people gives him an adrenaline rush.

That's probably what fuels Dr. Erhan Erkut to run up and down the aisles in his classrooms with his long ponytail flowing behind. Sticking microphones in faces, putting on skits to introduce case studies, and passing around pieces of Lego to build assembly lines are methods used to stimulate discussion and learning in his management science courses. And when it's time for a breather, he plays a CD from his one thousand-piece collection, for a one minute music break.

"I'm pretty much in tune with what students like," he says, although he tries to expose them to international music, jazz and eclectic stuff. And the students love him for it. But it wasn't always that way in these courses.

"We've raised the expectations of students so much with new technology. The challenge now is to maintain those expectations," says the business professor. Students are used to having e-mails answered within hours and expect links to course work established minutes after the lecture

is over, says Erkut. Setting up his multimedia courses was grunt work, he says, but "I did it and I still do it."

That's because he finds teaching rewarding in many ways, from the e-mails he receives from alumni about business models put to use in the workforce, to the more

immediate, and positive, feedback he gets after class. But the real plus is watching enrolment numbers for his courses go up, particularly with students taking them as electives. It wasn't always that way in the introductory operations management class, says Erkut.

"Someone who chooses this line of work likes teaching," says Erkut.

"We started as the 'David' in the system. Students hated the course," says Erkut. Not any more. What's new is the teaching method: full professors are used in class, an assistant professor in labs and hands-on technology use is maximized.

In fact, Erkut's course was the first on campus to administer an on-line exam last year. While it was a "logistics nightmare"—the first time around in 17 oations with only three professors among them and a TA "babysitting" the server which kept crashing—it now runs smoothly in four labs across campus. It's all part of keeping his students, and more important, himself motivated with technology.

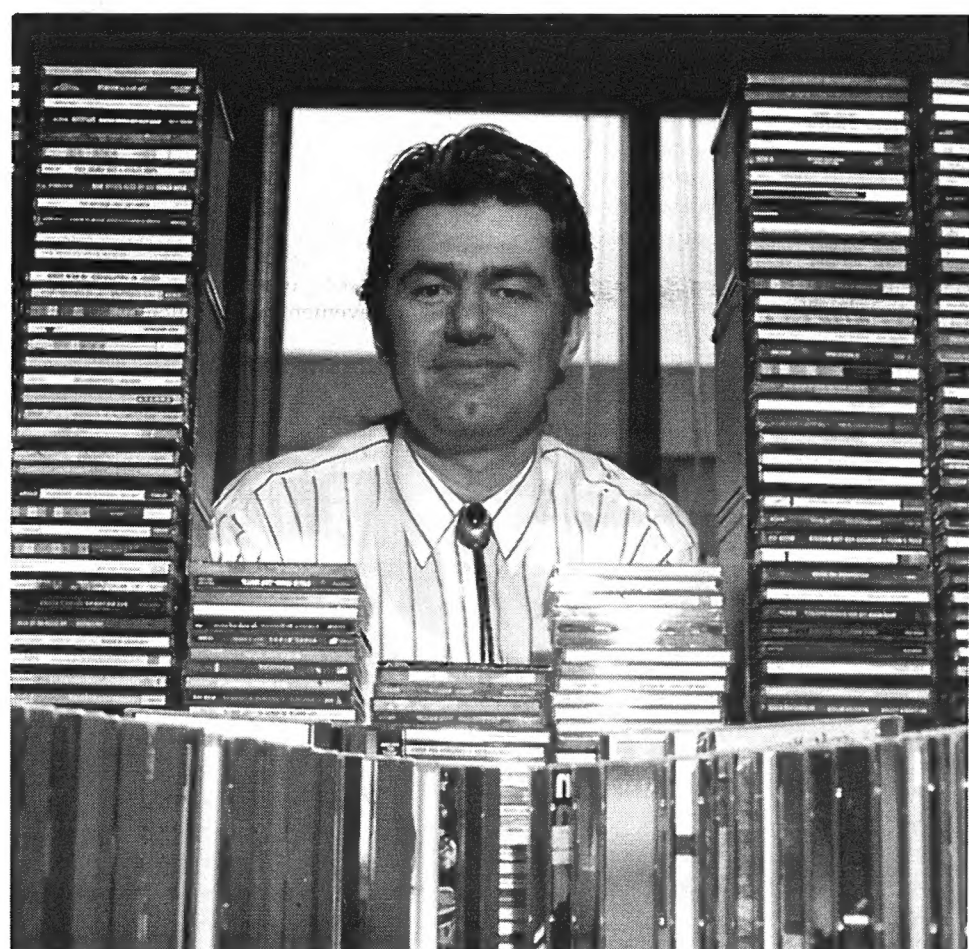
"Someone who chooses this line of work likes teaching," says Erkut. But he's

the first to admit it can be intimidating for new professors to face 300 students on day one.

"I was training for five years in research, and then I was told, 'Oh, by the way, you have to teach.' Fortunately, I had some innate skills and I didn't drown. But I know some people who found it very stressful and quit within two years."

That's why he's a proponent of training, and he requires his PhD students to take 10 courses in two years from University Teaching Services before they graduate. He also takes his teaching ideas on the road, making presentations at workshops across North America.

"I push the envelope all the time in the class room," says Erkut. He expects no less from anyone else. ■



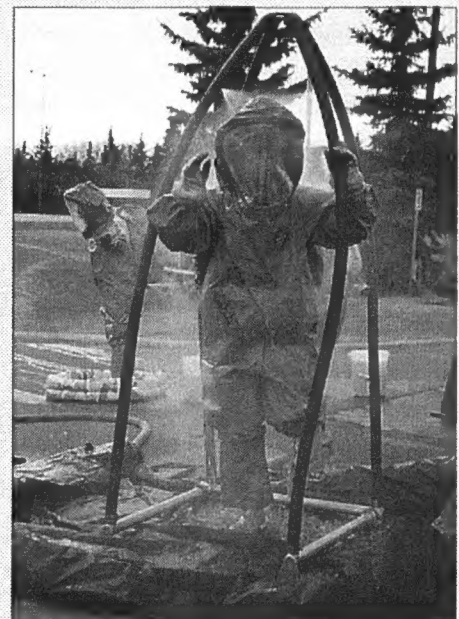
Tina Chang

## What the heck is going on here?

If you don't know, but can tell a good story, Folio has a prize for you

Some days on campus are just a little stranger than others. Whatever is happening in this picture happened just two weeks ago. If you can charm us with the most entertaining and fanciful account of what's going on, Folio will give you a Citadel Six-Pass, good

for any shows in the 1998/99 season. We'll announce the winner next issue and tell you the *real* story. Send entries by May 11 to Folio, 400 Athabasca Hall, University of Alberta, Edmonton AB T6G 2E8 or e-mail: lee.elliott@ualberta.ca.



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GUIDE



# The imprint of art on life...

The art on these pages represents the hearts and souls of three U of A artists. The recent acceptance of these professors as members of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts recognizes just how important their artistic expression is to the rest of the world. On these pages, they express their art in the medium of words as well.

By Lucianna Ciccocioppo

## AN AWARENESS OF PRESENCE: LIZ INGRAM

In a world that's fast and always five minutes ago, Liz Ingram relishes in the meditative world of printmaking.

"It's quite a long process to get to the resolution of the image...I think all of us that work in this area are attracted to that. The times we live in, everything is speedy, fast, slick, instant."

She wants people to be touched in some way and have a sense of intimacy about their own humanity when looking at her works...[To have] a kind of re-awakening of their connection with their own physicality...in the moment and how fleeting it is. I guess I have a feeling that people are more and more forgetting or being numbed to what we're doing here, that life is precious and short," says Ingram.

She wants people to take the time to be aware of their own sensuality and the experience and environment around them at any particular moment. After all, how can you be in tune with nature if you're not in tune with yourself, says Ingram. "So I guess I feel a kind of desire and obligation, if possible, to touch people in a way that brings them back to a kind of awareness to their own presence."

That's why Ingram has been working largely with the figure over the last 10 years, to convey the transitory nature of life, combining it with parts of nature in the process: rocks, water, plants.

She also uses light, she says, as an element that "dematerializes the physical."

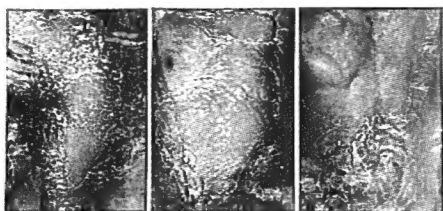
Her work in figures extends to drawing. And the two activities are connected. For both, she creates from models to give her the impetus for imagery. "It sets up an energy for me that I think releases something...the empathy that I'm after...I just don't think I can connect in the same way working from something that is second hand." Like photographs. Even when she incorporates photos in her prints, she uses models as her subjects. "The work is about life."

Born in Argentina and raised in Canada, England and India, Ingram grew up in an artistic family. Her mother painted regularly and her father was a professional musician. However, entering the world of art at first seemed too daunting for the young Ingram, who excelled in math and sciences during high school.

But an experience at 19 changed her life direction, and by her second year at York University, she was studying art. "I challenged myself to see if I could do it."

Now, as a professor of art and design, she challenges U of A students. Working with minds fresh out of high school means breaking down pre-conceptions of art.

And that means projects accessing the "right" or creative side of the brain, she says. It forces them to tap into their intuition, something all students, not just those in art, should do. ■



*Corporeal Cycle, Liz Ingram, 1996*

## A KIND OF STILLNESS: WALTER JULE

Walter Jule credits film for steering him towards a career in art. Back in the '50s, as a young boy visiting relatives in San Francisco, Jule remembers being mesmerized by the television. A certain Laurence Olivier was on, playing "MacBeth."

"I didn't have a clue, of course, of what they were saying or what was going on in this film...but I had this sense there was something monumentally important going on." And like all excited children, he ran to tell his parents about it, to explain as well as any child could, about this incredible movie that was on, about the human condition and the meaning of life. It was this sense of profound intrigue that would hit him again as a teenager, when he gazed at Japanese ceramics and scrolls at a museum in Seattle, the city he grew up in.

But it wasn't until his third year at university that he discovered the medium to express this intrigue: printmaking. An instructor captured his imagination when speaking of visual art and printmaking in philosophical terms, connecting the two to the entire world around them.

"Printmaking is an interesting, creative activity. And I think it's a little bit, in some ways, like other process art, like filmmaking and maybe what goes on in theatre," says Jule. "The printmaker organizes different kinds of visual qualities, expressive qualities, things we normally associate with drawing and painting and photography, and puts these qualities together in a kind of stable matrix."

The printing processing itself, however, takes on a mystical aura. One is never certain of the effect once the pressing is activated, says Jule.

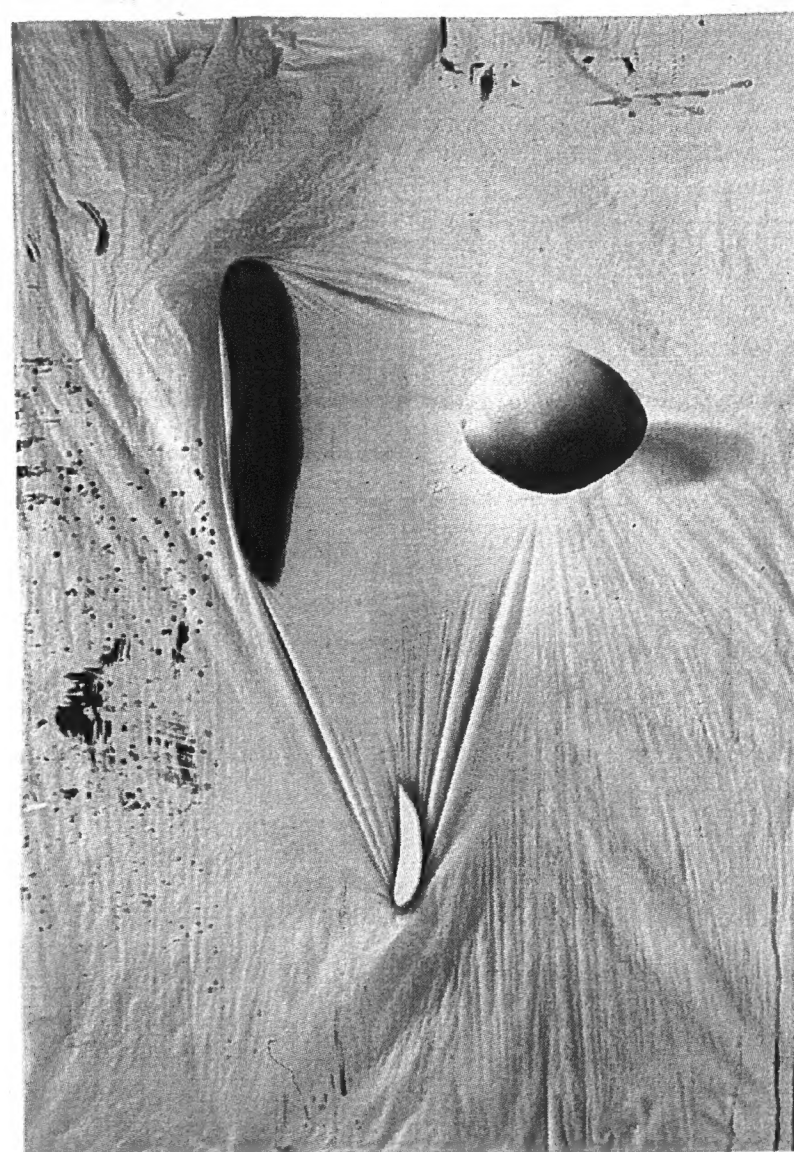
"It's like one second divided into three parts. If something good is happening, the first third of the second you think 'My God that's great!' The second third of the second you think 'My God I did that, therefore, I must be pretty terrific,' and then the third part of that second is that you realize, of course, what



*Measurement of the Plane of Nothingness, Walter Jule, 1996*



*Presence/Evanescence, Liz Ingram, 1996*



*Simple Diagram, Walter Jule, 1996*



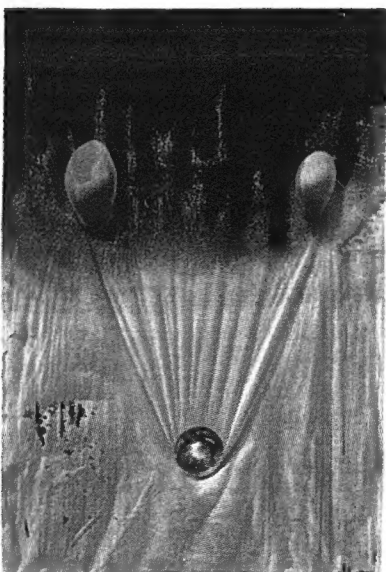
# ...and life on art

really happened is not really under your control. It's happening in the press. So you go from...recognizing something's happening, to a kind of ego rush to feeling you're a kind of...organizational conduit to allow these things to happen."

But this element of surprise can be valuable for artists, says Jule. It challenges preconceptions. "As you become more experienced, you have more control, but it's always a relative issue. As your control increases, your desire for certain things to happen increases. You hone your vision."

It's always exciting, at times humbling. Jule says he's interested in creating images representing the dichotomy between the internal and external worlds, the mental state through which ones sees the outside world.

"I'm interested in creating an image that seems simultaneously to be...in some ways dramatic, in some ways full of certain kinds of tensions and unexpected relationships, but ultimately kind of empty. The tensions don't lead to anything particularly, or the forms that anchor movement are kind of empty or hollow forms," says Jule. "I'm really interested in a kind of emptiness that you might initially think would excite a kind of intellectual engagement, but in the end, is really about a kind of stillness." ■



*Measurement of Void, Walter Jule, 1996*

## WALKING THROUGH A WORLD OF ART: LYNDAL OSBORNE

When Lyndal Osborne sets out for her daily two-hour walk in the woods, she has to be very careful where she treads. She could be stepping on another element for an art piece she's working on.

She's a collector. And she's been collecting since she was a child growing up in the Australian countryside. You name it, she collects it: rocks, branches, wildflowers, tree parasites, plant roots, shells, lava, kelp, sea urchins and bird eggs. One installation piece includes 300 birds' nests. Another required tearing down a barn, burning the wood and constructing boxes out of it to hold copper wire "nests."

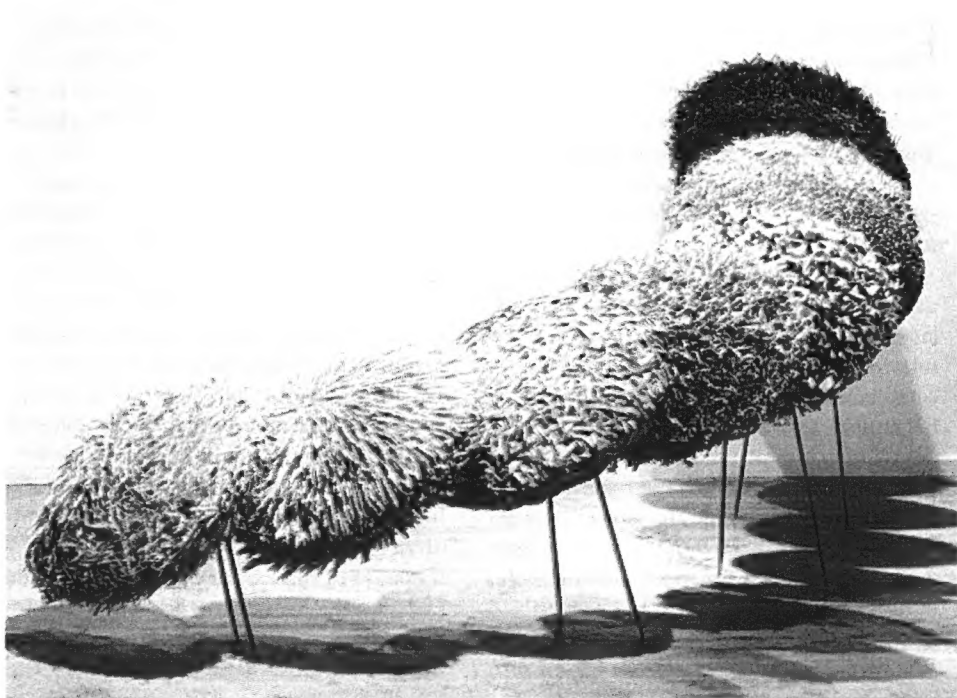
Eyes always open for discovery, Osborne also collects abandoned farm implements found embedded in earth and man-made and industrial toss-offs.

Another piece she's been working on for the last 18 years requires 166 different pieces. "It might come to fruition this summer," she says. All this observatory and preparatory work serve to set her mind percolating with ideas.

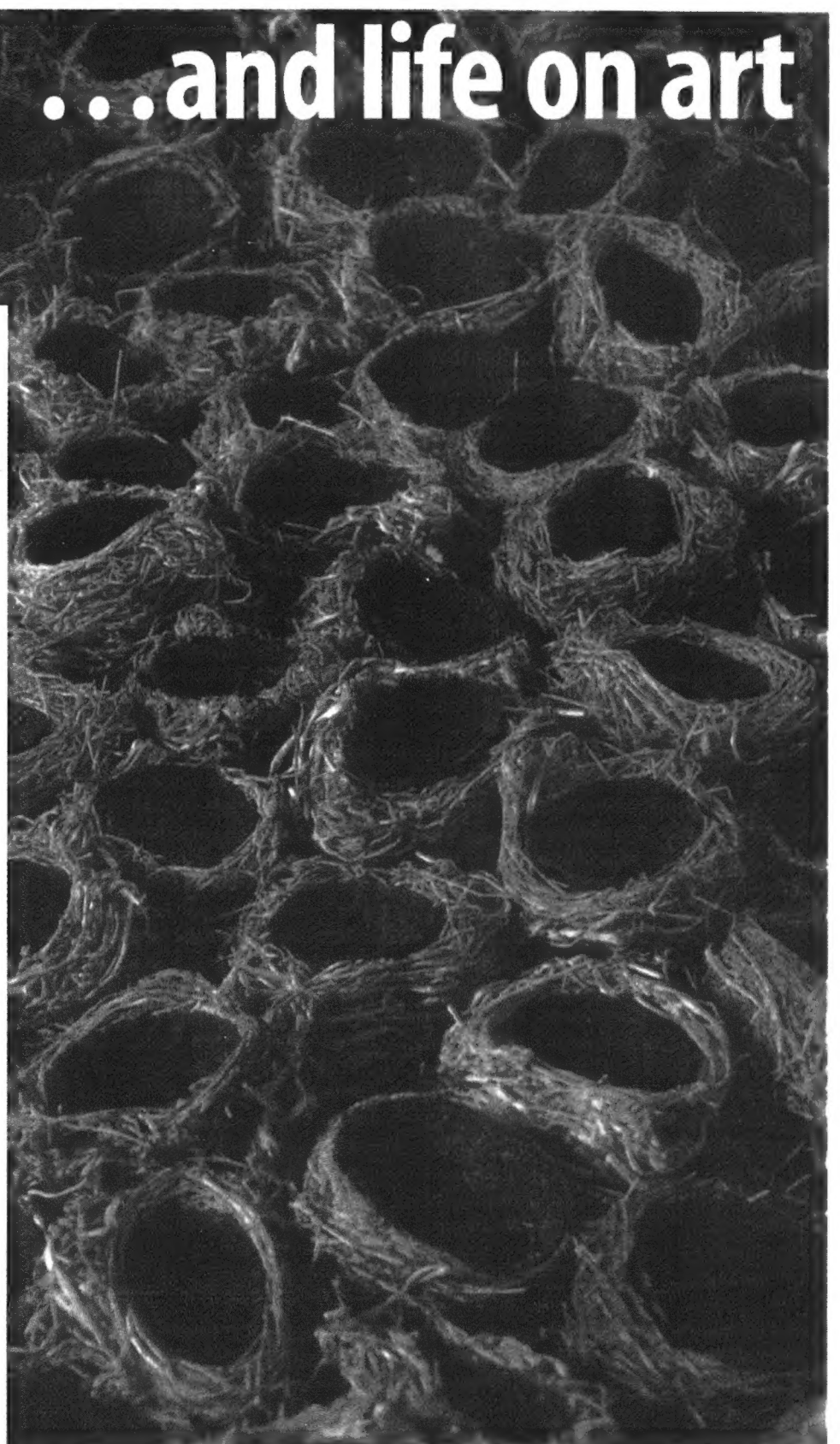
The two sides to her personality—collecting and art activities—fuel one another. "I use the experience of being engaged with nature and the collection of materials for the actual printing of images. Now I'm actually taking the objects of my collection and re-manipulating them into large-scale installation pieces."

Although she considers printmaking primary to her art practice, the professor of art and design says she feels a pull to do more sculptural installations. That's because gallery owners want to see, and show, more of them. But it doesn't mean her printmaking stops. "[Sculptural work] is integral to how my ideas develop for printmaking...And then I work pretty much on an imaginative base and then reflect on, not so much on what I've made, but on the experience I've had."

"I sort of play on what it was like to walk in winter, how the trees looked without any leaves, and very much the quality of material I've collected, whether it's brittle, or needs to be cut rather than bent. The smell of it affects me, too and I like the sense of smell to be part of it...When you try to put a sense of smell or sense of sound in a print, you have to find the visual equivalents to be able to carry that out."

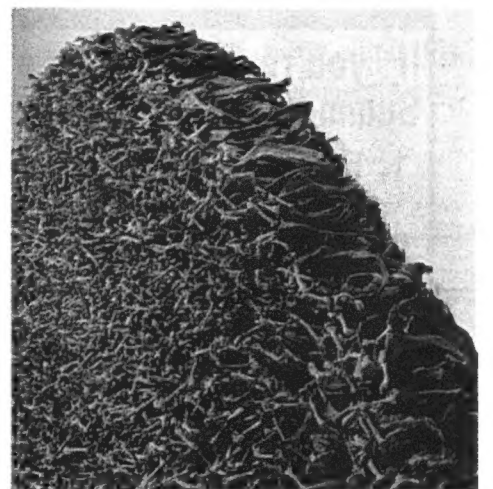


*Spinners, Lyndal Osborne, 1997*

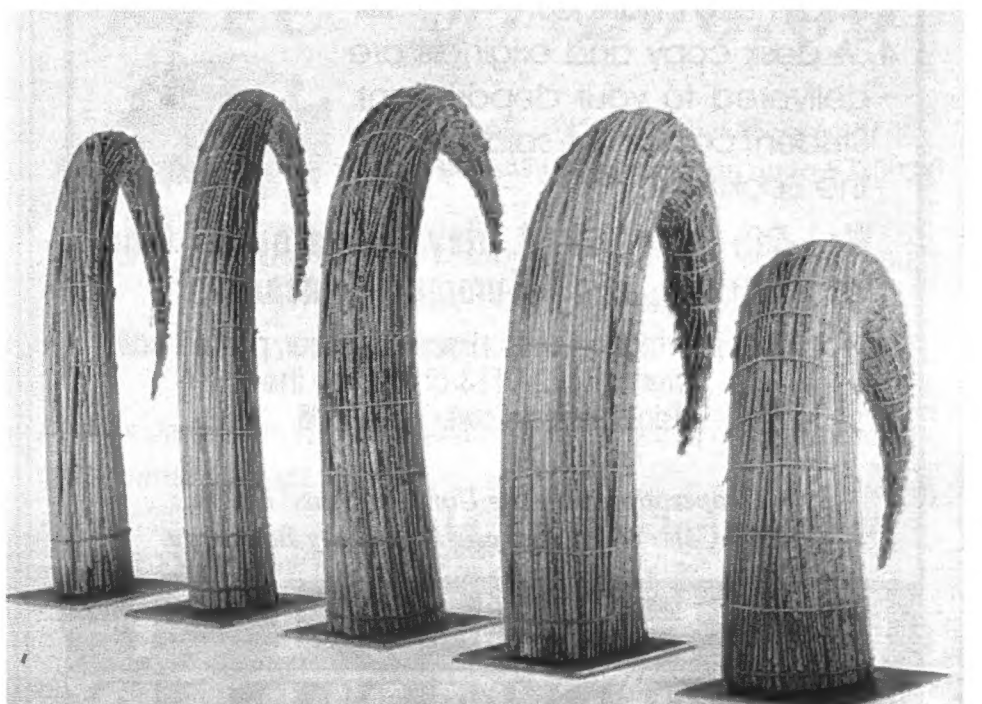


*Point of Departure, Lyndal Osborne, 1996*

As a teacher and practitioner of printmaking, with her works hung around the world, Osborne responds to what makes a good print. "I think some of the hallmarks of good artwork are ambiguity and mystery and maybe subtlety...So that every time you look at it you say, 'That's still beautiful' or 'I still enjoy it' or 'I never noticed what happened over there.'" An enigma to be revealed over time. ■



*To the Surface, Surveyed, Lyndal Osborne, 1997*



*Surge, Lyndal Osborne, 1995*





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**PRINT CENTRE**

# Life as a teen is risky business

By Roger Armstrong

If it's bad for their health, chances are a good number of teens are involved in it, according to Dr. Brenda Munro. And "it's hard to get them out, once they are in."

Munro, associate professor human ecology, and Dr. Mary Anne Doherty, secondary education, are studying health risk behavior in older teens (Grades 7-12) from central Alberta in collaboration with AADAC, the University of Guelph and the David Thompson Health Authority.

Risk behavior in teens can include smoking, drinking, drug use, unprotected sex and riding with a drunk driver.

"Kids who are doing sexually risky behaviors are smoking and drinking," says Munro. "The really risky kids tend to do everything. They usually have bad relationships with their parents and at school."

"They build their own support system because they don't get the support at home," says Munro. And then they are unlikely to leave that support system. The key is getting to them before they get too involved.

The programs developed from research Munro and her colleagues are conducting will hopefully help teens cope with the pressures of today's society. She hopes the research leads to programs that are "preventative versus treatment oriented."

Munro has teenagers and admits that could have something to do with prompting her to look into the area. "I've moved two of them through that process and seen them try different things." But despite raising two teens and conducting previous research in the area, she was still surprised.

"Their issues are quite different from what we perceive their issues to be," says Munro. An adult might assume teens are not accessing current help programs because they are afraid of peer pressure or the cost is prohibitive. "Kids say they want people to be kind, to treat them nicely, and that was more important than accessibility," says Munro.

A common adult misconception is that "kids don't use condoms [because] they can't afford them, they are afraid to buy them in the drug store."

But teens give different reasons. The males say, "It won't feel as good," whereas "females are more apt to say, 'I wouldn't use one because I trust my partner.'"

Not all teens have the same needs. "There are all kinds of gender differences," says Munro. "Female smokers are more apt to have high self-esteem," while "male smokers tend to be those with lower self-esteem. Females are more apt not to eat. Females are more apt to use sunscreen, males use protective clothing."

But despite the prevalence of risky behavior in teens, Munro is optimistic. "We found, to our surprise, most of those kids are pretty adjusted, they like their parents, feel OK about themselves," said Munro.

Munro and her colleagues have just received funding from Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research for a two-year, Alberta-wide study, which will survey 5,000 teens. Munro will focus on different ethnic groups. She feels each group has developed strategies for raising teens that may be useful in helping all teens. ■

"We found, to our

surprise, most of those

kids are pretty adjusted,

they like their parents,

feel OK about

themselves."

— Munro.

**For Teens in Central Alberta**

- One in four smoke
- One in five have either seriously thought about or attempted suicide
- Fifty per cent have experienced violence
- Sixty per cent said they drink alcohol
- Thirty per cent have driven in a car where they thought the driver was under the influence of alcohol or drugs

**» quick » facts**

# Faculté dean represents Western Canada on bilingualism task force

By Lucianna Ciccocioppo

Faculté Saint-Jean Dean Claudette Tardif has been appointed to a federal task force to study bilingualism in government services. Members representing academia and industry will investigate the problem of enforcing official bilingualism in areas spun off to the private sector and to the provinces.

Marcel Masse, president of the Treasury Board, announced the task force early last month after Official Languages Commissioner Victor Goldbloom urged its establishment. Goldbloom concluded in his annual report that the restructuring, devolution and privatization of federal services and programs have resulted in a weakening of language rights.

"Not only are we looking at the question of service, but the question of transfer of powers from the federal to provincial governments," says Tardif. She cites programs under human resources which provinces have taken over. "When they

were under federal responsibility, they were part of the Official Languages Act. But with the transfer of power, are people receiving the same respect for language in these services?"

Tardif says the task force has had its first meeting in Ottawa and will continue to meet monthly until the fall, when the report is expected to be complete. "We have to look at accountability...and the consequences of lack of respect for these recommendations put forward," says Tardif.

Task force members include: Yvon Fontaine, Université de Moncton, chair; Linda Cardinal, University of Ottawa; Jean-Marc Hamel, former chief electoral officer of Canada; Graham Greig, retired manager of human resources at E. B. Eddy Ltd.; Hugh Maynard, Quebec Farmers' Association; Jacques Michaud, College Boreal; and Jim Mitchell, partner, Sussex Circle. ■



# From "Popcorn Playhouse" to a life of careful scientific investigation

By Michael Robb

"The great panorama of life is interesting because it moves." J. Bell Pettigrew, 1873.

Physics professor Dr. Mark Freeman, this year's recipient of the Faculty of Science research award, has always been fascinated by that panorama of life. Like most children who have an early interest in the way the world works, Freeman often looked skyward, to the cosmological wonderment above his quiet Edmonton neighborhood. There was nothing extraordinary about that curiosity—that's often how physicists get turned on to the discipline, he says.

His interest just kept growing. He remembers his childhood pronouncement that he wanted to be a mad scientist when he appeared on Popcorn Playhouse, a CFRN children's

television program. And then there was Mrs. Walton, a science teacher at Laurier Heights Elementary-Junior High school. "She taught me the importance of doing things carefully and precisely."

Freeman remembers trying to make a telescope. "It didn't work, but I became an experimentalist anyway."

There was another ill-fated adventure. He and his friends tried to build a gas laser. It didn't work either.

Through those early experiences, Freeman learned a lot—most of all, that studying how the laws of nature actually work was exhilarating and challenging. He was captivated by the big questions: Where did the universe come from? Why does it work the way it does?

He cruised through mathematics and physics courses when he was at Ross Sheppard Composite High School. And there was little doubt what program he would enrol in at the University of Alberta. Physics welcomed the bright, young student, putting him to work in the Nuclear Research Centre, under the tutelage of Dr. Doug Sheppard and Dr. John McDonald. That first summer job was formative, Freeman says. "I found out that I really liked the daily business of doing research."

"Even as an undergraduate he was an outstanding colleague to have in the research work," says McDonald. "He performed at a level that lots of graduate students don't match."

There were summer jobs at the National Research Council in Ottawa, Bell Northern and Atomic Energy of Canada. With his BSc (Honors Physics) completed, he packed his bags for Cornell University to study with Nobel Laureate Robert Richardson. He studied the superfluid helium 3 and its properties

when it's cooled to one one-thousandth of a degree above absolute zero, where it loses its resistance to flow. He uncovered some of the element's other weird and wonderful properties.

"It was gorgeous physics and exotic," he says. But he realized very few physi-

cists could do this kind of experimentation forever. "Studying it because it was there didn't look like a good bet for a career," he says. So as a post doctoral fellow, Freeman looked for something with a little more practical application.

He went to work for IBM's Research Division in Yorktown Heights, New York, where he studied the optical properties of semi-conductors. He had remarkable freedom to delve into basic

physics problems, however. After a one and one-half year postdoctoral stint, he went to work for the company for four years. Although he hardly worked on applied problems at IBM, his appreciation for them grew immeasurably. "I never fully appreciated just how interesting they

could be," says Freeman, a self-described condensed matter experimentalist.

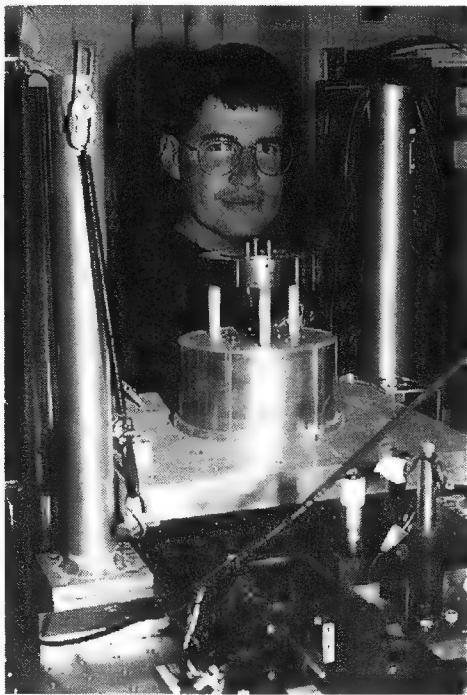
He never expected to return to his hometown, but when the opportunity to return to join the physics department arose in 1994, he couldn't

resist. Ironically, he says, he is also doing some applied research at the U of A.

He says the condensed matter physics discipline is gradually shifting, from the discovery mode to a "creativity" mode. The quantum theory of solids has been very successful, although impossible to solve without a lot of approximations. Physicists are now attempting to apply those fundamental laws of physics to create brand new materials and devices. For example, as electronic parts become smaller, understanding all of the relevant physics becomes more pressing.

He's employing ultra-fast microscopy to study nanostructures, tiny bits of matter too small to be seen by conventional optical microscopy. Nanostructures are an increasingly important foundation of advanced materials and devices. "Ideally, we'd like to be good enough to create new materials on the computer and then custom build them by moving atoms around."

Freeman is also involved in pushing the boundaries of microscopy. Atomic resolution is the Holy Grail. Making "movies" of single atoms may one day be possible. Remember, he says, people ridiculed those in the mid-1800s who said photography would never be possible. ■



Dr. Mark Freeman

Want to see how Dr. Mark Freeman is using ultrafast laser microscopy? Check out this web site: <http://laser.phys.ualberta.ca/~freeman/> and click on Quicktime Movie (1.71Mbytes) in the text. This may be the world's "fastest" movie, taken at a rate corresponding to 20 billion frames per second.

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# "Virtual" doctors provide real medical care

By Lee Elliott

For Ida Laboucan, an elderly resident of a High Prairie extended-care facility, arthritically gnarled hands, a bent spine and chronic pain make everything difficult—getting out of bed in the morning, fastening buttons, picking up a tea cup.

To add to her difficulty, help for her pain is a 1,000 kilometres away in Edmonton where medical specialists speak only a few words of her native Cree language.

The trek from High Prairie to Edmonton would mean recruiting a friend or relative to act as translator, at least a 10 to 12-hour drive and an overnight stay. But last Friday, with the help of a space satellite, Laboucan sat in the High Prairie community hall with her family doctor, Dr. Paul Caffero, on one side and her translator on the other for a consultation with Dr. Ray Howard in Edmonton.

Howard looked at real-time video of her twisted hands, asked Caffero to put pressure on particular joints to find the most painful places, and then looked at an X-ray of her hands—with the help of computers, video cameras, satellite technology and special medical instruments.

"The X-rays show very characteristic deformities of the rheumatoid arthritis," said Howard as Laboucan watched him on a monitor and listened to the translation whispered in her ear. A chest X-ray was next. "You can see the arch of the aorta," he said. "She does have some calcification within that...as you can see her back is quite curved."

Howard didn't do a complete diagnosis Friday. In fact, Howard isn't even an Edmonton specialist. He normally practices in High Prairie himself. This "consultation" was part of a live demonstration of the Keeweenaw Lakes Telehealth network, based out of the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine in Corbett Hall.

"These X-ray images are not the highest definition capable of the system," said Howard. "But they permit some diagnosis."

The system is capable of digitizing the image for much higher resolution X-rays which would permit a more precise diagnosis.

Howard "saw" two more patients in High Prairie from his chair in Edmonton during the demonstration. He looked inside young Jessica Gennings' ear to check the placement of a tube and looked at a chest X-ray and a chart of heart rhythms for Gladys Stewart, an elderly woman with a heart murmur.

The system is also capable of transmitting ultrasound images and a patient's heartbeat, said Howard. "You can do anything but put a hand on a patient." Advantages to the patient include the convenience of a consultation in their home community with their family physician by their side, quicker diagnosis and reduced costs.

The system will also be a boon to nurses working in isolated northern regions, and, says Howard, "in terms of continuing medical education, this is probably the most exciting model."

The U of A is one of five partners in the Keeweenaw Lakes Telehealth Project, the first in Canada to operate entirely on satellite links. And Friday's demonstration marked the launch of a \$3.5 million fund-raising campaign by the region. So far, the system is funded entirely by private donors.

Other partners include the Keeweenaw Lakes Health Authority, Raytheon Systems Canada, Telesat Canada and EFW Radiology in Calgary.

The project will provide specialized health care to the 25,000 people sparsely spread across the 90,000 sq. km. region. Over the first three years, Telehealth will serve Peerless Lake, Red Earth Creek, Trout Lake, Wabasca/Desmarais, High Prairie and Slave Lake.

Telehealth has three sites on the U of A campus: one in rehabilitation medicine, one in nursing, and one in medicine. Another site is expected to open in dental/pharmacy.

- Advantages to the
- patient include the
- convenience of a
- consultation in their
- home community with
- their family physician by
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These facilities have contracted with the University of Alberta to provide accommodations at the rates indicated. Each facility has unique features and offers something to suit everyone's taste.

To accommodate special guests to the University, reservations can be made using the Hotel Authorization Program (HAP) form which allows post-payment by the hosting department.

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## WOMEN MAKE INROADS IN FACULTY RANKS

The University of Alberta is in step with the national trend as far as hiring women in faculty positions. According to the annual report of the CAUT Status of Women Committee, here's how we compare for full-time faculty, (1996 numbers.):

Average number of women who are tenured professors		
U of A	Overall	lead university
22.4	20.9	Mount Saint Vincent, N.S. 56.3
Average number of women in positions leading to tenure		
U of A	Overall	lead university
40.6	45.7	Quebec, at 100* (1995)
Average number of women for all faculty appointments		
U of A	Overall	lead university
25.1	25.7	NSCAD, NS at 58.4

The report also shows that women received 34 per cent of doctorate degrees in major disciplines in 1996/97. They make

up 40.6 per cent of total PhD enrolment in the country.

Special section CAUT ACPPU Bulletin, April 1998 Pages 8,9

By comparison, U.S. Department of Education figures for 1995 show women make up 34.6 per cent of full-time faculty members.

The Chronicle of Higher Education, March 13, 1998 Page A15

## INSUBORDINATION AND INTIMIDATION SIGNAL THE END OF CLASSROOM DECORUM

American professors are seeing a rise in uncivil behavior by students in classrooms. Some attribute it to a crisis of authority in this country that leaves no one above question. Others blame the demise of learning for learning's sake and the increase in consumerist student attitudes. A debate on the issue may be accessed at <http://chronicle.com>

The Chronicle of Higher Education, March 27, 1998 Page A12 By Alison Schneider

## POSITIONS: OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

### UNIVERSITY WEB MANAGER

The Office of Public Affairs is looking for a results-oriented university web manager with solid systems development skills, and excellent interpersonal and communication skills. The position requires an individual who is proactive, has good problem-solving skills, and demonstrates a strong customer-service focus. As a key member of our public affairs team and the University's WWW administration, you will have primary responsibility for leading the planning, creation and administration of the University of Alberta's World Wide Web presence and its applications. This includes development of standards, templates, documentation and shared resources required for this purpose. As the university web manager, you will work closely with administration, all university faculties, departments and service units to promote a consistent image and user standards. You will mentor and offer training and development to other team members in acquiring and applying web technology. The successful candidate will be a quick learner, demonstrate good leadership abilities and demonstrate above-average technical competence.

Qualifications: A related university degree (preferably in computing science) is preferred, as well as systems development or maintenance experience supporting web applications. Also required is the ability to program in C, Perl, Java and create shell scripts; familiarity with Unix, Windows 95 and HTML; and knowledge of art and design. Familiarity with, and an understanding and appreciation of, student and faculty needs in a large post-secondary environment is a definite asset and an essential component of successfully fulfilling the requirements of this position.

Salary range \$38,880 to \$50,172 per annum, supplemented by a comprehensive benefits program. Review of applications will begin on May 15, 1998.

### WRITER/COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

The Office of Public Affairs needs a talented and creative professional to write for *Folio* (the university newspaper) and to coordinate and implement campaign/development communication strategies for the University of Alberta. If you are the successful candidate, you will have excellent interpersonal communication skills, proven ability to take initiative, solid problem-solving skills and have demonstrated a strong customer-service focus. You have a thorough understanding of the workings of the news media and how to use the Internet as a research and promotional tool. As the writer/communications officer, you will have a keen mind, a strong sense of inquiry and a solid sense of what it takes to tell a story. You have demonstrated superior writing ability, preferably in a news environment, and are able to write creative, accurate news stories and promotional materials in a timely manner.

Qualifications: A related university degree (preferably in journalism/public relations/communication). Preference will be given to candidates who have experience working in print or broadcast media and who have extensive writing and editing background. An understanding of the role of public affairs in a corporate and public sector organization is a benefit. Photographic skills are an asset.

Salary range \$31,632 to \$40,116 per annum, supplemented by a comprehensive benefits program. Review of applications will begin on May 15, 1998.

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The same individual may be awarded both prizes. The winning entries may not necessarily be selected as the official slogan/logo for the committee.

\*The Workplace Wellness Committee was created to identify ways in which both the individual and the institution can contribute to workplace wellness.

# positions

The University of Alberta is committed to the principle of equity in employment. As an employer we welcome diversity in the workplace and encourage applications from all qualified women and men, including Aboriginal peoples, persons with disabilities, and members of visible minorities. In accordance with Canadian Immigration requirements, preference will be given to Canadian citizens and permanent residents.

## DIRECTOR, INDIVIDUAL AND ORGANIZATION EFFECTIVENESS

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Please forward your résumé in confidence or call Libby Dybikowski or Casey Forrest of Pinton Forrest & Madden, 1220 Guinness Tower, 1055 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC, V6E 2E9. Telephone (604) 689-9970, fax (604) 689-9943, or e-mail pfm\_emapartners@bc.sympatico.ca

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# talks

Submit talks to Tamie Heisler by 9 a.m. one week prior to publication. Fax 492-2997 or e-mail at public.affairs@ualberta.ca.

## ALBERTA HERITAGE FOUNDATION FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

May 4, 10 a.m.

Kathryn E. Howell, Professor, University of Colorado Medical School, Department of Cellular and Structural Biology, Denver, Colorado, "New Insights in the Structure and Function of the Golgi." Presented by Cell Biology and Anatomy. 5-10 Medical Sciences Building.

May 11, 10 a.m.

The MARCKS Family of Protein Kinase C Substrates: Versatile Regulators of the Actin Cytoskeleton." Presented by Cell Biology and Anatomy. 5-10 Medical Sciences Building.

## CENTRE FOR GERONTOLOGY

May 6, noon

Makoto Chogahara, "Positive and Negative Social Influences on Physical Activity in Older Adults." P-218 Biological Sciences Centre.

## CENTRE FOR RESEARCH FOR TEACHER EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

May 7, 4:30 p.m.

Linda Lambert, California State University at Hayward, "The Constructivist Leader." 633 Education South.

## CHEMISTRY

May 4, 11 a.m.

Lanny Liebeskind, Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of Chemistry, Department of Chemistry, Emory University, "From Primordial Organometallic Processes to Modern Synthetic Methods." V-107 V-Wing.

May 11, 11 a.m.

1998 Merck Frost Lecturer. Stephen J. Lippard, Arthur Amos Noyes Professor of Chemistry, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, "Non-Heme Iron and the Biological Oxidation of Methane." V-117 V-Wing.

## JOHN DOSSETOR HEALTH ETHICS CENTRE

May 14, noon

Steven Aung, "Complementary Medicine and Its Ethical Context." Information: 492-6676. 2nd Floor Library, Aberhart Centre two, 8220 - 114 Street.

## MEDICINE AND ORAL HEALTH SCIENCES

May 11, 4 p.m.

Philip R. Lee, Senior Advisor, School of Medicine and Professor Emeritus, University of California, San Francisco, "The Future of Health Care." Bernard Snell Hall, Mackenzie Health Sciences Centre.

May 12, noon

Dr. Lee, "The Challenges to Medical Education in an Uncertain Time." 227 Medical Sciences Building.

# events

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# notices

Send notices by e-mail to public.affairs@ualberta.ca by 3 p.m. the Friday prior to publication.

## JOURNEY INTO FITNESS II

Interested in increasing your physical activity and improving your eating habits? Register for JOURNEY INTO FITNESS II, a research & activity program offered by the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation and Campus Recreation. The program runs from May 5, 1998 to April 29, 1999 and includes two activity sessions per week and 1 information session per month. For more information see the Campus Recreation catalogue or phone 492-2555. There is a fee for the program.

## RETIREMENT RECEPTION FOR MANFRED PROKOP.

There will be a reception on Friday, May 15 at 7:00 p.m. at the Faculty Club to honor Manfred Prokop who is retiring from Germanic Languages in June. Please contact Jan Chalk (492-3271) by May 10 if you would like to attend or to make a gift contribution.

## DO IT FOR THE HEALTH OF IT!

Patricia Dyck, master's student, is currently looking for ADULT FEMALES to take part in a study entitled "Individual Goal Setting for Physical Activity and Nutrition." Participation in the study would require approximately three hours of time. In return, participants would receive valuable information relating to physical activity and nutrition. As well, participants would come away from the experience with some practical goals to help in increasing physical activity and improving eating habits. If interested, please call 492-7424

## NETWORK RESEARCH DAY

Friday, May 8th; 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM; Room 5041 Cross Cancer Institute Area-Wide Epidemiology and Biostatistics (A-WEB) Network Research Day. Keynote address on "The Use of Administrative Health Data for Disease Surveillance" by Leslie Roos, Manitoba Centre for Health Policy and Evaluation. There will be poster and oral presentations by local epidemiologists and statisticians. RSVP attendance to Janice at 432-8642; e-mail: janices@cancerboard.ab.ca.

## BIO SAFETY COURSE

The Office of Environmental Health and Safety, Biosafety Division will be offering a course entitled Concepts in Biosafety beginning May 11, 1998 and ending with an exam Thursday, May 28, 1998. The registration deadline is May 5, 1998. This course is designed for staff and summer students expecting to handle biohazards. For details on scheduling, registration and fees, please contact Don Koziol, Biosafety Technologist, phone: 492-0122, Fax: 492-7790, e-mail: don.koziol@ualberta.ca.

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By Lucianna Ciccocioppo

Flip through this journal and titles like "Conflict, Compromise and Conquest in Setting Audit Standards," "The Dialectics of Consultancy," and "Stock Options as a Form of Compensation for American Executives," will soon have your eyes glazing over.

Unless, of course, you're an accountant.

Look more closely and you'll find something throughout its many black and white pages that will make you stop, sit and think: poetry, running the gamut from (what else?) numbers, statements and bookkeeping to life with a workaholic spouse, asking a co-worker out on a date and loneliness.

Not something you would expect in an academic journal like *Critical Perspectives on Accounting* (CPA). But, as co-editor Dr. David Cooper says, it's about time.

"Most people imagine, often correctly, that accounting is very boring. It's technical and it's numbers...We wanted to explore accounting in creative ways," says Cooper, the Faculty of Business' CGA Professor of Accountancy. And that means publishing more creative ways of thinking and talking about corporate and social accountability. *Critical Perspectives on Accounting* looks to "shake up preconceptions about accounting and corporate life and organizations," says Cooper.

What better way to do this than to include poetry, perhaps short stories, even cartoons?

Academic Press, the journal's publisher drew the line at cartoons and short stories, but relented where poetry was concerned in 1995, after the publication gained credibility and "a significant foothold in the community," says Cooper.

That took five years from the journal's launch. The publisher worried librarians and academics would find the journal "too frivolous" if its early stages included works such as "Owed to Accounting," "Mr. Selfish," and "More Cheese Please."

CPA isn't making history with its creative foray in accounting. In fact, a journal out of University of Chicago Press used to publish poetry written by academic sessionals more than 30 years ago, says Cooper, but it no longer does. Probably because "it was pretty unexciting stuff," says the U of A professor.

But since CPA began soliciting poetry, "We've been inundated with material from poets," says Cooper and it arrives from all over the world, between 300-400 submissions so far. Submissions go to New York, where a board of local poets helps the journal's American co-editor select those for publication.

For a time, Cooper says CPA was receiving poetry from "a whole series of plaintive and frustrated accountants," signing their works "frustrated accountant in Des Moines or New York."

There were "often cries from the heart: 'I'm stuck here doing double-entry accounting and I'm bored and this is what I'm thinking about.'" Indeed, Cooper says there are a surprising number of submissions from both professional and academic accountants, which proves the poetry has created a lot of interest.

However, a measure of disdain comes with that interest. "Plenty of people have come back to us and asked: 'What's this doing in here? It's crap poetry,'" says Cooper. "Our view is it's a mode of expression closely linked to accounting. We feel quite positive about the whole thing...It makes people think."

Cooper and his colleagues hope people will start thinking accounting, and accountants, aren't so boring after all if the "two complementary ways of looking at the world," as the editors wrote in an editorial, are included: fact and reason

# The poetics of accounting

Journal balances "fact and reason" with "emotion and imagination."

"Our view is it's a mode of expression closely linked to accounting. We feel quite positive about the whole thing...It makes people think."

Dr. David Cooper

and emotions and imagination. More important, Cooper says part of the role of accounting, and a university, is to question the narrow concept of accounting.

"I ask my students to give me an account of the university. They talk about courses, faculty, their love lives. Then I show them the official university account [financial statements]. And there's no mention of student life or academic research," says Cooper. It's these different versions of "accounting" Cooper wants to build on, to expand existing definitions, to move it beyond the preoccupation of the bottom line. "I would rather account to my wife through poetry than through numbers."

Meanwhile, the creative efforts of *Critical Perspectives on Accounting* have not gone unnoticed.

The *Wall Street Journal* included a front-page story when the first prize for the "accounting poet laureate" was given

out several years ago, says Cooper, with his tongue firmly in cheek. The \$200 prize was picked up by an Irish accountant at a convention in New York. Soon after, National Public Radio and CNN ran stories about accounting poetry. And last fall, CBC Radio read poems from the journal every day for a week on the national program "This Morning."

But the pinnacle of recognition is yet to come: *CA Magazine*, the industry must-read, will have a feature out this summer, says Cooper with a smile.

What's next for the unconventional journal? "I would still like to see cartoons," says Cooper. But he knows he doesn't have a hope in...well, you know. ■

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